the State Governments have taken a number of steps to help the weavers in the three affected districts of Andhra Pradesh viz., Krishma, Prakasam and Guntur. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has agreed to provide production oriented consumption loan through Bank to the affected weavers at Rs. 1000/- per family repayable in 20 monthly instalments with a moratorium of 4 months at 11.5% interest per annum. The State Government also proposes to organise a relief of Rs. 5000/- per family to the surviving members of weavers through local organisations. Sufficient amounts have been released by the Central Government for providing sustained employment to affected weavers under the janata production programme, even though an overall cut in janata production programme has been imposed throughout the country. Arrangements for improved yarn supply at pre-budget prices have been tied up through State agencies and National Handloom Development Corporation.

Legal Aid Scheme for the Poor

*126. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the working of legal aid scheme for the poor;

(b) if so, the shortcomings noted in the working of the scheme; and

(c) the reasons for the shortcomings and the action taken to remove the same?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY): (a) to (c). Legal Aid Programmes are organised by the State Legal Aid & Advice Boards and District Legal Aid Committees etc., whose working is overseen by the Chief Justices of the respective State High Court and Judges of the High Court besides senior Judicial Officers in the State, who are actively associated with the State Boards and District Committees. Further, such programmes, particularly Lok Adalats, are often attended by the Chief Justice of India in his capacity as Patron-in Chief CILAS and Executive Chairman, CILAS, who is a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court. The working of the Legal Aid Programme is reviewed as and when meetings of the Members of the Committee for Developmenting Legal Aid Schemes (CILAS) are held. No shortcomings on the Legal Aid Programmes have been brought to the notice of the Government.

Foreign Exchange Immunity Scheme

*127. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Foreign Exchange Immunity Scheme formulated by the Reserve Bank of India has given rise to large scale hawala transactions and under-invoicing of exports; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to stop misuse of the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The Enforcement Directorate and the Central Board of Direct Taxes have informed that there is no indication that the Foreign Exchange (Immunities) Scheme formulated by the Reserve Bank of India had given rise to a large scale hawala transactions and under invoicing of exports.

(b) Does not arise.

Smuggling of Electronic Items

*128. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: